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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/711,289

09/08/2004

Robert G. Coulombe

GTAP:102US

5288

24041 7590 08/06/2007
SIMPSON & SIMPSON, PLLC
5555 MAIN STREET
WILLIAMSVILLE, NY 14221-5406

EXAMINER

MENEZES, MARCUS

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3677

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/06/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/711,289	Applicant(s) COULOMBE ET AL.	
	Examiner Marcus Menezes	Art Unit 3677	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 May 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,6-10,12-15,21 and 22 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,6-10,12-15,21 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

- Examiner apologizes for indicating allowability to claims 5 and 19 in the previous office action. However, Applicant should note that this action constitutes a non-final office action.
- Examiner notes that claims 1,4,5,11 and 16-20 have been cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

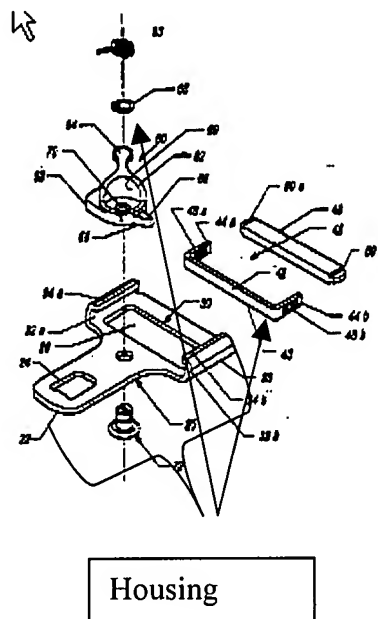
(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 2-3, 6-10, 12-15 and 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ashline et al. (US Patent No. 5,649,341, hereinafter "Ashline").

Ashline discloses a quick release buckle comprising a first cam (62); a knurl bar (48); and a first spring (80) engaged with said first cam and said knurl bar proximate a first end of said knurl bar. (See Fig. 1 below). Ashline further discloses that said first spring engages with said first cam and said knurl bar, wherein said first spring is operatively arranged to apply compressive force against said first cam and said knurl bar. (See Figs. 2-3 and col. 2, lines 60-67). Also, said knurl bar is operatively arranged to grip a belt (90) in response to said compressive force. Moreover, a housing with an integral mounting structure (72) is disclosed; and wherein said housing has bearing walls that the first cam rests, said bearing wall being the top portion of the integral

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mounting structure (72); and wherein said first cam is operatively arranged to rotate about said mounting structure and wherein said housing further comprises first (20) and second (65) components and said mounting structure is integral to said first component. (See figure below). Additionally, said mounting structure is integral with said second component, is extruded from said housing and is operatively arranged to engage said first and second components.



Furthermore, Ashline discloses that said housing has a first mounting structure that is a protrusion fixedly attached to said housing and where a first cam pivotally mounted on said first mounting structure is operatively arranged to rotate about said first mounting structure. Moreover, Ashline does disclose a tongue blade (22) wherein said first cam is operatively arranged to grip said tongue plate in response to said engagement by said first spring.

However, Ashline does not disclose a second cam and a second spring operatively arranged to engage and said second cam and said knurl bar, pivotally mounted rotatably on said housing via a second mounting structure, and operatively arranged to apply a compressive force against said second cam.

On the other hand, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have placed a second cam on the Ashline patent, since it has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant and Examiner discussed the amended claim language and have tentatively agreed upon language for independent claim 21 that would place said claim in condition for allowance. Further, Examiner has made suggestions on how to place independent claim 22 in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marcus Menezes whose telephone number is 571-272-6284. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am - 5:30pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Swann can be reached on 571-272-7075. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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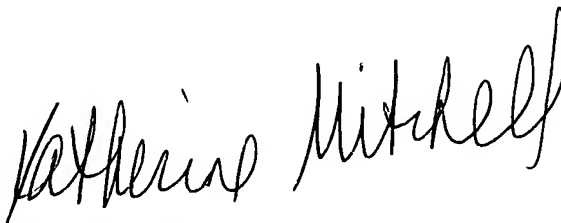
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Marcus Menezes

Examiner

Art Unit 3677

MM


Katherine Mitchell
Primary Examiner